

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. The title has been amended to make it more descriptive, as required in the Office Action. A minor typographical error in the specification has been corrected, without adding new matter. Claims 1 and 5 are the only independent claims.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,625,738. Applicants traverse and submit that the independent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a computer system includes: a predetermined switch for instructing a system power source to be turned on and an application program to be executed, a power switch for instructing the system power source to be turned on, status memory for detecting the depression of the predetermined switch to store a status signal indicative of the detection result, and a mask circuit for outputting an ON signal in a state that the system power source is turned off and no ON signal in a state that the system power source is turned on in response to the depression of the predetermined switch. A power control circuit also is provided for turning on the system power source in response to an operation of the power switch and the ON signal. A processor, which operates by using the system power source, accesses the status signal stored in the status memory in response to the start of the supply of power from the system power source so as to start up a predetermined application program when the status signal indicates the predetermined switch has been operated. The system also includes a controller, which operates by using the system power source, for detecting the depression of the predetermined switch to output a signal for instructing the processor to start up the predetermined application program, whereby making it possible to turn on the system power source and start up the predetermined application program in response to the operation of the predetermined switch.

As a result of the structure recited in claim 1, a predetermined application program can be run upon start up of the computer, when the start up is caused by operation of the predetermined key.

Shiga shows a computer system that allows a start up of a computer whose main power supply is in the off state by operating the computer's keyboard. In Shiga, when the predetermined key from the keyboard is operated in a powered down state, the computer turns on. However, Shiga does not show the computer executing a particular *application* program when it has been determined that the power on has been effected by application of the predetermined key, as in claim 1. Instead, in Shiga it is the *operating system* that is started up, in either the shortcut start up sequence or the regular power up sequence. See col. 7, lines 30-35.

It is noted that the present application makes a distinction between an application program, such as the one executed in response to power up by the shortcut key (e.g., application program 29b), and the operating system (e.g., OS 29a). In the present invention, a power on by operation of the predetermined switch results in execution of a predetermined *application* program, which is a program distinct from the operating system. In contrast, Shiga always, whether in normal or in shortcut power initiation, initiates the operating system and contains no teaching of the shortcut power up mode causing execution of any particular application program. For at least the foregoing reason, claim 1 is believed clearly patentable over Shiga.

Independent claim 5 similarly recites that power on by operation of the predetermined key, as opposed to the recited power control circuit, results in execution of a application program. As discussed above, Shiga contains no teaching of a particular application program associated with powering up by the predetermined key. Accordingly, independent claim 5 is believed patentable over Shiga.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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